

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3 and 11-28 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3 and 11-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

II. Further Response of Office Action

The examiner has contacted the undersigned to discuss several remaining issues following the submission of applicants' response to final on April 13, 2004. First, the examiner requested that several claims referring to the "probe" of claim 1 be amended to take into account that claim 1 now refers to two probes. Amendments to claims 15-17, 21 and 28 are now provided.

Second, the examiner questioned whether claim 18 was to encompass "performing" of a spiral CT scan. Again, and clarifying amendments has been provided.

Third, and finally, the examiner questioned whether applicants had intended to include SEQ ID NO:7 in claim 3. After again reviewing the file, applicants believe that such an inclusion is unnecessary. In fact, it was not clear from the final office action that the examiner's concerns extended to GC20, as it was stated that "the specification teaches GC20 is SEQ ID NO:7." Thus, the comment in the previous response regarding "inclusion" of SEQ ID NO:7 reflected the *existing* inclusion of SEQ ID NO:7 in the specification. Again, applicants' concern here is that there are GC20 probes that have slightly different sequences than SEQ ID NO:7. However, to the extent that the examiner's is addressing an identity issue similar to that previously voiced over RPL14 probes, applicants are now providing an amendment to claim 3,

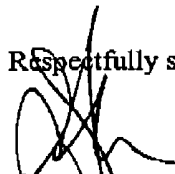
comparable to that offered for claim 1, namely, that the GC20 probe is from the 3p region of the human chromosome.

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, and an early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the examiner have any questions regarding this response, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

Respectfully submitted,



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